

february

FEBRUARY 2025
Issue No. 267

Random Acts of Kindness Month

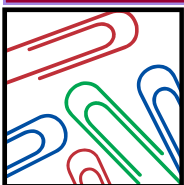
With all the random acts of nastiness in our society, churches are being asked to extend an unexpected kindness to strangers as well as to people they know, including spouses, parents, children, pastors, and the world.



9:00 AM—Brady 1st & 3rd week

9:15 AM—Dutton 2nd & 4th week

11:00 AM—Choteau



Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon

The SPARK

A spark is a small thing, yet it may kindle the world. —Tupper

Newsletter of the Choteau—Brady—Dutton UM Parish

Write It On Your Heart

“Write it on your heart
that every day is the best
day in the year.



He/she is rich who owns the day,
and no one owns the day who allows it
to be invaded with fret and anxiety.
Finish every day and be done with it.

You have done what you could.
Some blunders and absurdities,
no doubt crept in.

Forget them as soon as you can,
tomorrow is a new day;
begin it well and serenely,
with too high a spirit to be cumbered
with your old nonsense.

This new day is too dear,
with its hopes and invitations,
to waste a moment on the yesterdays.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Pastor's Page FEBRUARY

During the month of February, we will be looking at Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Paul wrote multiple letters to the church in Corinth, but only two of them survive, 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

Corinth, located in modern day Greece, was a popular seaport, with goods and ideas coming in from all parts of the Roman Empire and beyond. As a result, the city was fabulously wealthy, with many different religious cults from all over the known world setting up shop in Corinth. Paul spent eighteen months here establishing churches in the city. Corinth could be compared to Las Vegas, with people making and spending vast amounts of money. Immorality was a part of everyday life on multiple levels.

Many of the early converts to the Corinth church were Gentiles, although there were some Jewish converts as well. The church was made up of people from different cultures, as Corinth was a place where people of many different nations converged. Paul knew that a lot of work was needed to help the church learn how to love each other and love God. Some of the content of the Corinthian letters speak to specific issues facing the Corinthian church that didn't necessarily need to be addressed in other churches in the Roman Empire.

However, the Corinthian letters also address questions that we are still facing in today's church. How do we love each other with our differences? What is the relationship between God and humanity and where does Jesus and the Holy Spirit fit in with this?

I look forward to a brief exploration of 1st Corinthians with you during the month of February. And yes, we will look at the famous love chapter as well. I look forward to seeing you in church!

Pastor Alyssa

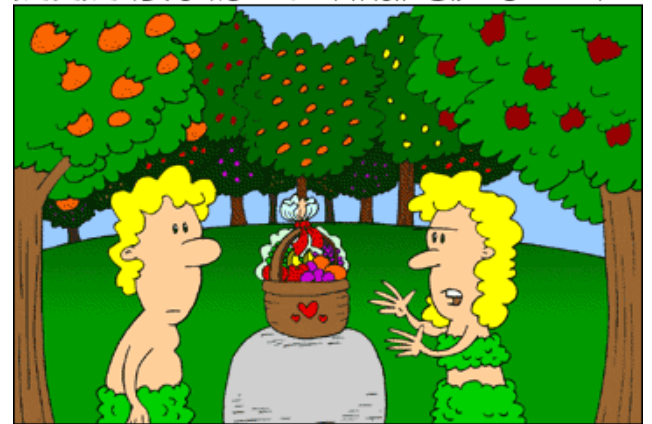
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(See Exodus 34) 02-07-2003

I WAS JUST MESSING WITH YOU ON THAT LAST ONE ... CHOCOLATE AND PIZZA ARE STILL OK

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Thanks to Benoit Paquette 02-14-2002

REALLY ADAM ... A VALENTINE'S DAY FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN???



LECTIONARY

- Feb. 2:** Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30
- Feb. 9:** Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
- Feb. 16:** Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
- Feb. 23:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 30-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

**Materials for your
Spiritual Formation
January / February**

Available in the front entryway and the Upper Room rack at the top of the ramp

► Upper Room – regular & large print



**“The secret to living well
and longer is:
eat half,
walk double,
laugh triple,
and love
without measure.”**

– Tibetan proverb

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge



Weekly Bible Study

**Skyline Lodge
Wednesdays—11:00 am**

All are welcome to join us every Wednesday as we gather at Skyline Lodge for an ecumenical Bible Study.

C.C.C.

Coffee ~ Conversation ~ Communion

**Thursday, February 27
1:00 pm ~ note time change**



**Skyline Bible Study
Wednesdays—11:00 AM**



We will be starting a new Bible study called “Meeting Jesus” written by Leighton Ford. There are 13 sections to the study. This study will help you understand the nature of Jesus, as well as his ministry here on earth and in heaven and helps us prepare for Lent. We meet at 11AM on Wednesdays on the second floor open space at Skyline Lodge. Hope to see you there!

CONNECT

**WEDNESDAYS
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**DROP OFF 5:00 P.M.
PICK UP 6:00 P.M.**

Ages: Pre-K - 5th 5- 6 P.M.
6th - 8th 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
H.S. YOUTH 7 - 8 P.M.



CHOTEAU - BRADY - DUTTON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

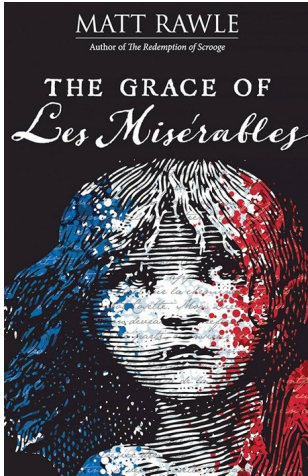


Lenten Study

with Soup & Bread



March 9—April 13



This year, we will again do a book study for Lent. We will read *The Grace of Les Misérables* by Matt Rawle. Matt is a United Methodist pastor in Louisiana and has written several book studies.

The study will start on Sunday, March 9 and will run each Sunday until April 13. We will gather at 4PM at Choteau United Methodist Church to enjoy a soup and bread light supper. We will work on the study for about an hour and start the supper around 5PM. This study is open to anyone who wants to join in. There will be a short video presentation for each study, and you will be asked to read a short chapter in the book to prepare for the study each Sunday.

You can purchase the book for about \$10 from Amazon. If you would like the Choteau Church to purchase a book for you, please submit your order and money to the church office no later than Sunday, February 23.

We will also need two volunteers for each meeting to provide a crockpot of soup and bread. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lila at the Choteau church office at 406-466-2641 or at umc@3rivers.net.

I hope to see you for this book study for a lively conversation!
Pastor Alyssa

Holy Humor

A young farm boy recalled that his grandfather didn't believe in using swear words or taking the Lord's name in vain and expected the same from his grandchildren. However, one day while in the company of his grandfather who was working on a tractor in the machine shop took a strong blow to his thumb with a wrench.



The young boy thought, "NOW, I am going to hear some expletives fly from grandpa!" In the young boy's amazement, all he heard from his beloved grandpa who was in pain,

"Cheese and Crackers, Got All Muddy!!!"

— adapted from a Choteau UMC member's family story

YOUR MONETARY GIFTS AT WORK

The ministries of Choteau United Methodist Church are made possible by your on-going financial contributions. Our congregation is 100% self-funded; we receive no outside funding. Your gifts enable us to provide weekly worship, pastoral care, educational opportunities, youth group, Sunday school for children and adults, mission opportunities, the opportunity for us to provide responsible charitable contributions to help those in need, etc. I hope you will consider making a financial contribution to Choteau UMC to support our life-transforming mission. To make a tax-deductible donation you can send in a check to our church office, or contribute on Sundays during the offering. Financial statements are available upon request at the church office.

VITAL STATISTICS – Choteau

2025 Budget for Choteau	\$ 79,110
<i>(This budget amount is effective through June 30, 2025)</i>	
Needed to meet budget –January	\$ 6,593
Received through January 26	\$ 4,994

Thank you for your on-going support!



Choteau UMC

**Tuesday, February 25
7:00 pm**



**Annual
Super Bowl Sunday
BBQ Pork
Rib Dinner**

Carry-out ONLY

Sunday, February 9

Dutton UMC Women

Pickup at 12:00 Noon

Dutton UMC

1 lb. Ribs only - \$10

**1 lb. Rib dinner with coleslaw,
roll, baked beans and dessert - \$17**

PLEASE ORDER

BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6th

Order by calling:

Vickie Maurer – 781-5504

Jean Harman – 868-1198



Join us for

**Breakfast/Brunch Fellowship
Sunday, February 16**

Following worship service.

**Breakfast casseroles,
fresh fruit,
sweet breads/muffins**

**We would appreciate volunteers to assist in
providing sweet breads and/or muffins.
Please contact the church office if you can
assist. 406-466-2641 or umc@3rivers.net**



> Rev. Paul Holland and Rev. Kama Hamilton Morton for filling in while Pastor Alyssa was on vacation after Christmas. We are so grateful you were able assist with providing services for our Parish churches.

> Those providing and assisting with the "CONNECT" meal on January 22: Connie Bradley, Dora Jermunson, Duane Halverson, and Joyce Lindgren. We appreciate your volunteerism to help with this special ministry.

> Norman Haug for overseeing and taking care of the maintenance of the furnaces at the church and parsonage. We are very thankful for your efficiency.

> Perri Lindgren for keeping our parking lot cleared of snow when necessary. Thank you for your extra time, effort and equipment!

> I want to send words of gratitude to our church treasurers: Sharon Haug, Jaynie Gollehon and Larry Harman. This volunteer position is extremely time consuming and demanding. It is not for the faint of heart!! This time of year is particularly busy for them, as they are sending out W2 forms for staff, gathering together and sending out end-of-year statements of giving, filling out fund-balance sheets for the district, and inputting data for the statistical reports that are due in February. And this is on top of the regular, hard work that they do each month. It's a lot to do!!

So please, take some time to thank them for their hard work as volunteers for the church. I am so grateful for these fearless folks who do so much grunt work for the churches with little fanfare or acknowledgment. I'm grateful for their talent and for their hard work.—Pastor Alyssa

Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

- 4 Rita Reynolds
- 11 Ryan Kostelnik
Logan Ley
- 12 Jack Rogers, Jr.
Nick Stubblefield
- 14 Sara Coccoli
- 15 Liz Maltby
- 18 Sterling Bakker
Haisley Dyer
Jerry Herman
Shellie Mellinger
- 19 John M. (Jack) Clark
Jessica Howard
- 20 Don Jermunson
- 22 Lew Clark
Ryan Depner
Lyle Weist
- 26 Perri Lindgren
- 28 Jordyn Herbst
Shelby Rasmussen

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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other

Please remember to call Pastor Alyssa

(office 466-2641;
cell 410-443-1115)

when one of our UMC family members needs a card or visit because of loneliness, illness or other crisis in their lives.

Did You Know?

Anchorite cell in Ireland

<https://pilgrimagemedievalireland.com/tag/anchorite-cell/>



During the Middle Ages in what is now known as the United Kingdom, a movement started among men and women to withdraw from the world to live a more spiritual life. People were inspired by the desert fathers and mothers from very early Christian Church times to get a better understanding of themselves and their relationship with God. People chose to live a life as an anchorite versus joining a religious order for various reasons, including the desire not to commit to making permanent religious vows or to continue to remain in marriage to their partner.

People who chose to live the life of an anchorite were permanently enclosed within the walls of their cell or ‘anchorhold’. These cells typically had no door, as the person was literally walled into the church. There were a few windows, however. One window was built so that the anchorite could see the bread and wine in the church that was used for Holy Communion. Another window, maybe two, were used for the anchorite to talk to those who came for spiritual advice. The windows also enabled a servant to provide the anchorite with fresh food and water, as well as a change of clothing and assistance with sanitation.

Anchorites could be men or women, however, later most were women. When a person agreed to be an anchorite and the person was formally enclosed, a priest would give the person a service of Last Rites, as it was expected that the anchorite would be dead to the world and would spend the rest of their lives in the cell. The anchorite movement continued until King Henry VIII disbanded the Roman Catholic monasteries, priories, convents, and friaries from 1536-1541.

Julian of Norwich (c. 1343-after 1416) was probably the most famous anchorite. She was well known for her wisdom and was also a mystic who had a series of visions of Jesus Christ. She wrote down her visions, and they were well preserved, even though the Reformation prevented their publication for several years. They were later put in the British Museum and remained in obscurity until 1901. The writings were collected into the *Long Text* and *Short Text* of Julian’s *Revelations of Divine Love* (if you are interested in reading Julian of Norwich’s writings, I recommend the *Short Text* of *Revelations of Divine Love*).

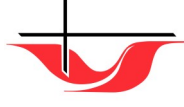
Julian of Norwich’s writings demonstrate a great theological mind at work, which is remarkable since it is likely she only received a very basic education as a child. She was the first person to compare Jesus’ love for humanity in terms of a loving relationship between a mother and her child. Julian wrote that God waits for the day when human souls mature so that evil and sin will no longer hinder us. According to Julian, Jesus said to her, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

Visual depictions of Julian of Norwich typically include Julian holding a hazelnut with a cat nearby. In one of Julian’s visions, Jesus showed her a hazelnut and told her that even something as small as a hazelnut was created through the love of God, God loves everything and everyone, no matter how big or small. Julian was allowed to keep two cats in her cell to protect her from the mice and rats that shared the cell with her.





*Thanks to Dr. Estes of Wesley Theological Seminary for his teaching on this subject.

february

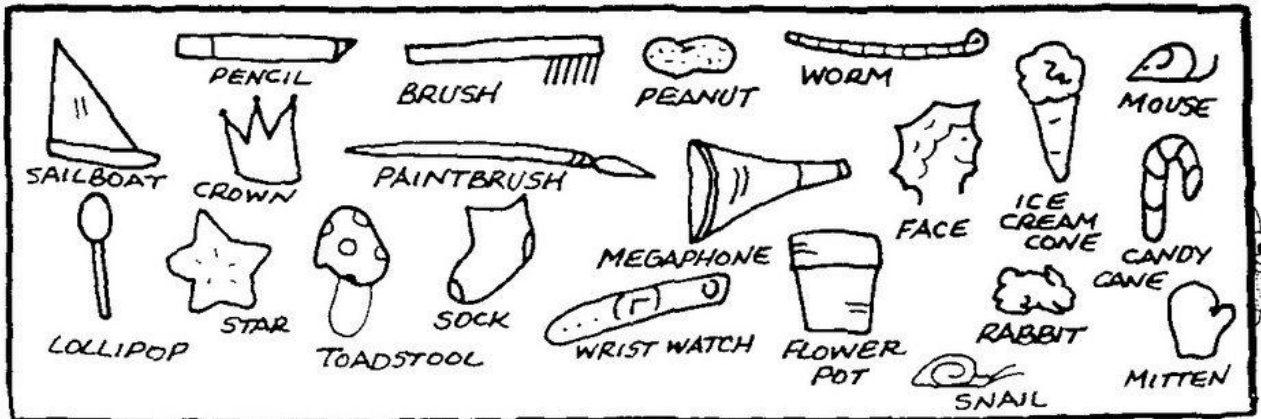
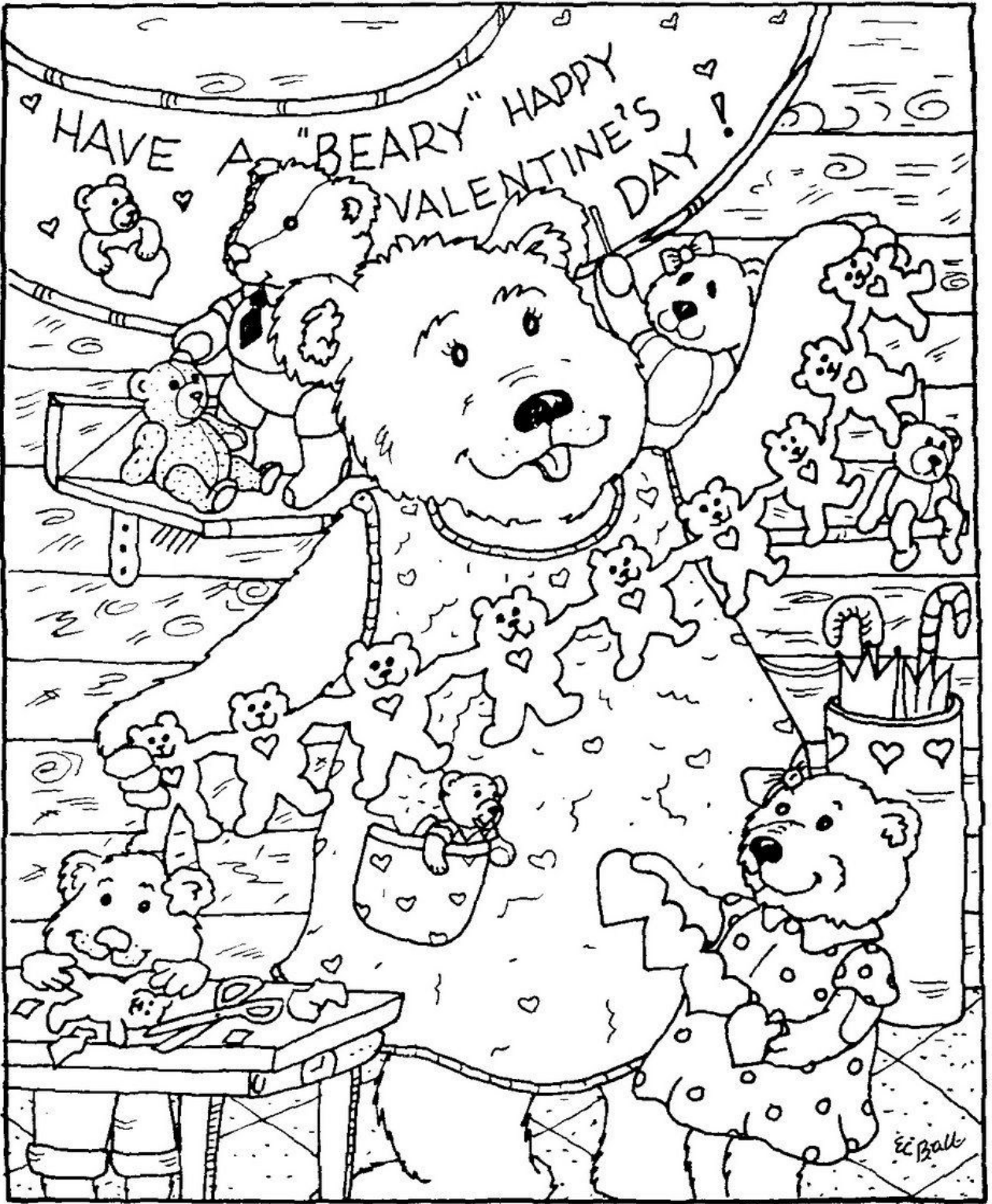
2025



Choteau-Brady-Dutton United Methodist Parish
 Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ
 to Love, Witness and Serve

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am - Brady 1st & 3rd week 9:15 am - Dutton 2nd & 4th week 11:00 am - Choteau  	3 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am - Brady 1st & 3rd week 9:15 am - Dutton 2nd & 4th week 11:00 am - Choteau	4	5 11:00 am Skyline Study 5-6 pm CONNECT	6 Deadline to order Rib Dinner Leadership Board Brady UMC 5:00 pm	7 8	1 
9 Super Bowl BBQ Pork Rib Carry-out Dinner Dutton UMC 12 Noon	10 11 18 17 Presidents' Day Grief & Support Group 11:00 am @ Choteau UMC	11 18 Leadership Board Choteau UMC 7:00 pm	12 19 26 11:00 am Skyline Study 5-6 pm CONNECT	13 20 27 1:00 pm CCC @ Skyline Lodge	14 21 28	15 22
16  Breakfast/Brunch Fellowship Following Worship @ Choteau UMC	17 24 Deadline submit order for Lenten Book Study	25	19 26 11:00 am Skyline Study 5-6 pm CONNECT	20 27	21	22

Find the hidden figures



Choteau—Brady—Dutton
United Methodist Parish



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Choteau, MT 59422

Phone: 406-466-2641
Email: umc@3rivers.net
Web: www.umchoteau.net
Facebook.com/Choteau UMC

Alyssa Nantt, Pastor
Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.

First Std
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Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ to Love, Witness and Serve

This month's newsletter is co-sponsored by:

Leah McDonald

In honor of

**Pastor Alyssa
and
Terry & Lila Dunn**

**Brady & Dutton
UMC's**

**In honor of
Terry Dunn
and all he has done for
the Brady & Dutton
churches. We pray for
love and peace to be
constant in his life.**

**Please continue to consider sponsoring an issue of
The Spark Parish Newsletter for \$40,
and your sponsorship will be noted in the newsletter.
What a nice recognition in honor or memory of someone, or as a gift!
Submit your sponsor information to the parish office.**

